



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/724,606	11/28/2000	Dexter A. Burleigh	06558/007002	7648

22511 7590 12/20/2002

ROSENTHAL & OSHA L.L.P.  
1221 MCKINNEY AVENUE  
SUITE 2800  
HOUSTON, TX 77010

EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

11

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/724,606

Applicant(s)

BURLEIGH ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. *ile*

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2171

This is in response to the application filed November 28, 2000 in which claims 1-40 are present for examination.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 19-23, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079).

Regarding claims 1 and 21-22, Cwenar discloses at (FIG. 4) an information management system, comprising:

a data repository (101) adapted to store related data tied to a key parameter field;

and

at least one application server (100) adapted to provide a plurality of applications (column 6, line 39) to a plurality of users (126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138 and 140), the at least one application server (100) operatively coupled to the data repository (101), each of the applications adapted to generate at least some data having the key parameter field, the at least

Art Unit: 2171

one application server (101) adapted to retrieve and update (column 5, lines 47-54 and column 6, lines 10-14, Cwenar) selected ones of the related data when ones of the applications use and generate application data having the key parameter field (see column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 3 and lines 24-25; abstract and FIG. 6 of Cwenar).

Regarding claim 2, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim

1. In addition, Cwenar discloses the system wherein the data repository is adapted to store all data generated by each of the applications (see column 8, lines 46-50).

Regarding claim 3, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim

1. In addition, Cwenar discloses the system wherein the data repository comprises a plurality of databases each adapted to store data from a respective one of the plurality of applications (see column 14, lines 11-16).

Regarding claim 5, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim

1. In addition, Cwenar discloses the system wherein the plurality of applications comprises at least one selected from the group of a database management application, a portfolio management application, and a portfolio forecast application (see column 7, lines 7-20).

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim

5. In addition, Cwenar discloses at (Fig. 1 and Fig. 6) that the database management application comprises a front-end user interface (2, Fig. 1) operatively coupled to the data repository (4,

Fig. 1) and adapted to generate at least some data having the key parameter field when ones of the plurality of users enter data into the front-end user interface (Fig. 6, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 7, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 6. In addition, Cwenar discloses the system at (FIG. 1 of Cwenar) wherein the front-end user interface (2) comprises a plurality of different application modules each directed to specific ones of the plurality of users (22, 24, 26 and 28, Cwenar).

Regarding claims 15 and 19-20, Cwenar discloses a management system (FIG. 4) for a hydrocarbon-producing portfolio, comprising:

at least one server (100) adapted to serve a plurality of applications (column 6, line 39) to respective users (126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138 and 140), each of the applications adapted to generate data corresponding to the respective user, at least some of the data generated by each application having a key parameter field (101, FIG. 4 and FIG. 6) therein; a database management system (101) operatively coupled to the at least one server (100) and adapted to store at least some of the data generated by each application and update any of the stored data having the key parameter field when ones of the applications modify any of the stored data having the key parameter field; the at least one server adapted to serve the updated data to any other ones of the applications when the other ones of the applications retrieves the updated data having the key parameter field (column 5, lines 50-52; column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 3 and lines 24-25). The at least one business process model application adapted to automatically update

Art Unit: 2171

the modeled data when any ones of the selected ones of the stored data are updated by operation of any of the other applications (see column 5, lines 47-54 and column 6, lines 10-14, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 23, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 21. In addition, Cwenar discloses that a parent application comprising a plurality of application modules, each of the application modules directed to at least one of the respective users (see column 7, lines 57-64, Cwenar).

Regarding claim 25, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 21. In addition, Cwenar discloses that applying at least one business process model to selected ones of the stored data to generate modeled data; and

data are updated by operation of any one of the served applications.

automatically updating the modeled data when selected ones of the stored (see column 5, lines 47-54 and column 6, lines 10-14, Cwenar)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 16-18, 24 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589).

Regarding claims 4 and 24, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. Cwenar discloses that the plurality of applications comprises a finance application and a sales and marketing application. Cwenar, however, does not disclose that the related data are relevant to a hydrocarbon-producing portfolio. Armitage, on the other hand, discloses these limitations on (column 4, lines 57-66 and column 5, lines 7-14, Armitage). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar, as taught by Armitage. The motivation of doing so would have been to use the system of Cwenar for industrial applications (column 4, 13-14, Armitage).

Regarding claims 16-18 and 26-27, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 15. Armitage discloses that the business process model comprises creating an optimized drilling schedule (column 11, lines 48-58, Armitage).

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of Dembo (U. S. Patent no. 5,148,365).

Regarding claim 8, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5. Cwenar discloses the portfolio management application. Cwenar, however, does not explicitly disclose a resources optimization program adapted to use the related data retrieved from the data

Art Unit: 2171

repository to generate an optimized allocation of resources based on at least one selected criterion. Dembo, on the other hand, discloses these limitations at (see FIG. 1 and column 1, lines 33-35 and 39-45, Dembo). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar, as taught by Dembo. The motivation of doing so would have been to use the system of Cwenar for optimally allocating available resources in portfolio management system (column 1, 4-7, Dembo).

Regarding claim 9, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 8. In addition, Cwenar/Dembo combination discloses the system wherein the selected criterion comprises at least one selected from the group of developing most profitable assets first, achieving a selected net cash flow, achieving a selected earnings, achieving a selected level of production, satisfying obligations on time, and developing assets to achieve the greatest net cash flow in a selected amount of time for a selected amount of capital (see FIG. 5a-d and column 1, lines 43-49, Dembo).

Regarding claim 10, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 8. In addition, Cwenar/Dembo combination discloses the system wherein the applications server is adapted to automatically update selected ones of the related data when the resource optimization program generates optimized allocation of resources data (see column 8, lines 27-37, Dembo).



Regarding claim 11, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 5. In addition, Cwenar/Dembo combination discloses the system wherein the portfolio forecast application is adapted to forecast future performance of assets based on the related data (see column 10, lines 10-17, Dembo).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of O'Shaughnessy (U. S. Patent no. 6,484,151).

Regarding claim 12, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. Cwenar does not disclose that the automatically notification at least one user when related data relevant to the at least one user has been updated in the data repository. O'Shaughnessy, however, discloses this limitations on (Summary). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar, as taught by O'Shaughnessy. The motivation of doing so would have been to transmit the updated information to the users immediately.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cwenar (U. S. Patent no. 5,893,079) in view of Lu et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,373,489).

Regarding claims 13-14, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. Cwenar does not disclose that the members of an asset development team having different functions related to the development and management of assets in the portfolio, each

Art Unit: 2171

member responsible for providing particular related data corresponding thereto. Lu, however, discloses these limitations on (column 1, lines 14-21, Lu). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Cwenar, as taught by Lu to provide various specialists having different functions related to the management of assets. The motivation of doing so would have been to enhance the management system.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,373,489).

Regarding claim 28, Lu discloses a method for managing a hydrocarbon-producing portfolio, comprising:

having a plurality of asset team members each using an application related to the function of the respective asset team member to generate data relevant thereto; the asset team members comprising geologists, geophysicists and petroleum engineers (see column 1, lines 14-21); and automatically updating corresponding data used by any other one of the applications based on the data generated by using at least one of the applications (see column 25, lines 34-36, Lu).

Lu, however, does not explicitly disclose that the asset team members comprising a geoscientist, a regulatory compliance administrator, a right-of-way administrator, a drilling engineer, a completion engineer, a finance analyst, a field operator, a sales and marketing representative, and a portfolio manager. But, it would have been obvious to include these people

Art Unit: 2171

who are incorporative in this management system. The motivation of doing so would have been to enhance the hydrocarbon-producing portfolio system.

Claims 29-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al. (U. S. Patent no. 6,373,489) in view of Armitage (U. S. Patent no. 5,475,589).

Regarding claim 29, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 28. Lu discloses a seismic interpretation application (column 6, lines 33-45, Lu). Lu, however, does not explicitly disclose a petroleum land management application and a drilling engineering application, and a portfolio optimization application. Armitage, on the other hand, discloses this limitations on (column 4, lines 57-66 and column 5, lines 7-14; Fig. 3 and Fig. 20, Armitage). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Lu, as taught by Armitage. The motivation of doing so would have been to use the system of Lu for industrial computer applications (see column 4, 13-14, Armitage).

Regarding claims 30 and 35, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 28. In addition, Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one business process model to select ones of the corresponding data to generate modeled data (see column 19, lines 58-62, Lu).

Regarding claim 31, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 30. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one business process model

Art Unit: 2171

comprises determining an optimized drilling schedule (see column 7, lines 42-44 and column 11, lines 48-58, Armitage).

Regarding claim 32, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 31. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one selected from product price forecasts and production predictions (see column 6, lines 62-67, Armitage).

Regarding claim 33, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 32. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one selected from developing most profitable assets first, achieving a selected net cash flow, achieving a selected earnings, achieving a selected level of production, satisfying obligations on time, and developing assets to achieve the greatest net cash flow in a selected amount of time for a selected amount of capital (see column 4, lines 1-14, Armitage).

Regarding claim 34, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 30. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one business process model comprises forecasting hydrocarbon production (see Fig. 3 and column 2, lines 61-67, Armitage).

Regarding claim 36, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 30. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that at least one business process model comprises determining drilling costs associated with at least one prospectively drilled well (see column 3, lines 1-7, Armitage).

Regarding claim 37, the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 28. In addition Lu/Armitage combination discloses that the hydrocarbon-producing portfolio comprises existing and prospective well locations, petroleum land management information related to the existing and an prospective well locations, capital equipment disposed in the existing wells, capital equipment proposed for existing and prospective wells, and estimated hydrocarbon reserves in reservoirs penetrated by the existing and prospective wells (see column 7, lines 42-44, Armitage).

Regarding claims 38-40, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 28. In addition, Lu discloses that the notifying at least one of the asset team members that corresponding data used by the one of the applications used by the at least one asset team member have been updated by operation of the other one of the applications used by at least one other asset team member (column 6, lines 16-18 and column 25, lines 34-37, Lu).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the

Art Unit: 2171

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-9099 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hanh Thai *HT*  
Art Unit 2171  
December 12, 2002

*Uyen Le*  
UYEN LE  
AU 2171